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TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,

HELD AT

PHILADELPHIA,

FOR PROMOTING

USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.

VOLUME VI.



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American Philosophical Society*

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1809.

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“the advantageous manner of treating them, without
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“of the reasonings, contained in the several papers
“so published, which must still rest on the credit
“or judgment of their respective authors.

Secondly. “That neither the Society, nor the
“Committee of the press, do ever give their opinion
“as a body, upon any paper they may publish,
“or upon any subject of Art or Nature that comes
“before them.”

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 ftitute of France.
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 Eric Profperin, profeffor of Aftronomy in the Univerfity of Upfal.

Conditions of the Magellanic Premium.

M. JOHN Hyacinth De Magellan, in London, having sometime ago offered as a donation, to the American Philosophical Society held at Philadelphia for promoting useful knowledge, the sum of two hundred guineas, to be by them vested in a secure and permanent fund, to the end that the int rest arising therefrom should be annually disposed of in premiums, to be adjudged by the society, to the author of the best discovery, or most useful invention, relating to navigation, astronomy, or natural philosophy (mere natural history only excepted) and the society having accepted of the above donation, hereby publish the conditions, prescribed by the donor, and agreed to by the society, upon which the said annual premiums will be awarded.

1. The candidate shall send his discovery, invention, or improvement, addressed to the President, or one of the Vice-Presidents of the society, free of postage or other charges; and shall distinguish his performance by some motto device or other signature, at his pleasure. Together with his discovery, invention, or improvement, he shall also send a sealed letter, containing the same motto device or signature, and subscribed with the real name, and place of residence of the author.

2. Persons of any nation, sect, or denomination whatever, shall be admitted as candidates for this premium.

3. No discovery, invention, or improvement shall be entitled to this premium, which hath been already published, or for which the author hath been publicly rewarded else where.

4. The candidate shall communicate his discovery, invention, or improvement, either in the English, French, German, or Latin language.

5. All such communications shall be publicly read, or exhibited to the society, at some stated meeting, not less than one month previous to the day of adjudication; and shall at all times be open to the inspection of such members as shall desire it. But no member shall carry home with him the communication, description, or model, except the officer to whom it shall be intrusted; nor shall such officer part with the same out of his custody, without a special order of the society for that purpose.

6. The society having previously referred the several communications. from candidates for the premium then depending, to the consideration of the twelve councellors and other officers of the society, and having re-

ceived their report thereon, shall, at one of their stated meetings in the month of December, annually, after the expiration of this current year, (of the time and place, together with the particular occasion of which meeting, due notice shall be previously given, by public advertisement) proceed to the final adjudication of the said premium: and after due consideration had, a vote shall first be taken on this question, viz. Whether any of the communications then under inspection be worthy of the proposed premium? If this question be determined in the negative, the whole business shall be deferred till another year: but if in the affirmative, the society shall proceed to determine by ballot, given by the members at large, the discovery, invention, or improvement, most useful and worthy; and that discovery, invention, or improvement, which shall be found to have a majority of concurring votes in its favour shall be successful; and then, and not till then, the sealed letter accompanying the crowned performance shall be opened, and the name of the author announced as the person entitled to the said premium.

7. No member of the society who is a candidate for the premium then depending, or who hath not previously declared to the society, either by word or writing, that he has considered and weighed, according to the best of his judgment, the comparative merits of the several claims then under consideration, shall sit in judgment, or give his vote in awarding the said premium.

8. A full account of the crowned subject shall be published by the society, as soon as may be after the adjudication, either in a separate publication, or in the next succeeding volume of their transactions, or in both.

9. The unsuccessful performances shall remain under consideration, and their authors be considered as candidates for the premium, for five years next succeeding the time of their presentment; except such performances as their authors may, in the mean time, think fit to withdraw. And the society shall, annually, publish an abstract of the titles, object or subject matter of the communications so under consideration; such only excepted as the society shall think not worthy of public notice.

10. The letters containing the names of authors whose performances shall be rejected, or which shall be found unsuccessful after a trial of five years, shall be burnt before the society, without breaking the seals.

11. In case there should be a failure, in any year, of any communication worthy of the proposed premium, there will then be two premiums to be awarded in the next year. But no accumulation of premiums shall entitle an author to more than one premium for any one discovery, invention, or improvement.

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Charles Smith, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
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Samuel Moore, Philadelphia.
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Nathaniel Chapman, M. D. Philadelphia.
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Rev. William Staughton, D. D. ditto.
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CONDITIONS

OF THE

EXTRA MAGELLANIC-PREMIUM.

M. DE MAGELLAN having fixed at ten Guineas, the sum to be annually disposed of as a Premium, according to the *strict terms* of the donation, and the Magellanic Fund having been so managed as to produce an annual surplus, the Society, with a view to promote as far as may be in their power the liberal intentions of the donor, have determined that the above surplus shall be disposed of under the following

REGULATIONS.

1. The surplus Magellanic-Premium may be awarded at such stated meeting of the Society, as shall be agreed to, at a previous stated meeting, due notice being given thereof to the members.

2. Every communication which shall have been offered with a view to the Magellanic-Premium, and to which the same shall not have been awarded, shall (except such as the Society shall not think at all worthy of notice) be again taken into consideration, with a view to the awarding of the surplus premium; and if such communication shall, at such meeting, be thought within the general view of the donation, and to be sufficiently valuable to deserve a public reward, a surplus premium may be awarded to the author thereof.

3. The surplus premium shall consist of a gold medal, of the value of not less than twenty dollars, nor more than forty-five dollars, engraved with a similar device to that of the original premium, except that it shall contain the words "Extra Magellanic-Premium," or at the option of the successful candidate, the value of such medal in money, accompanied with a Diploma on parchment, with the seal of the Society.

4. All the rules and regulations concerning the application for the awarding of the original Magellanic-Premium, shall be adhered to in the case of the surplus premium, in so far as they are not hereby modified or derogated from; unless, in very special cases, for the rewarding of some essentially useful discovery or improvement, two thirds of the members of the Society present at a meeting, appointed for the awarding of the surplus Magellanic-Premium, shall, by their votes, taken by ballot or otherwise, direct.

5. The Society shall propose and publish, as often as they think proper, such a number of subjects as they think fit, to which they shall call the attention of the candidates for the original and surplus Magellanic-Premiums, and invite their communications thereon, informing them at the same time, that although communications on such subjects will be acceptable to the Society, yet they shall not entitle their authors to a preference over more meritorious communications on other subjects, equally within the strict or general view (as the case may be) of the Magellanic donation.

6. The surplus-premium will not be exclusively applied to actual inventions or improvements, but will also be extended to such valuable communications, within the general view of the donation, *as may lead* to useful discoveries, inventions or improvements.

The Society have thought proper at present to propose the following subjects:

1. The best experimental essay on native American permanent dyes or pigments, accompanied by specimens.

2. The best means of navigating our rapid rivers against the stream.

3. The best essay on the general natural history of the ranges of American mountains in the country east of the river Mississippi.

4. The best essay on the natural history and chemical qualities of the hot and warm springs of the United States, or of any one of them.

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